Organisations under the jurisdication of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) is dependent on the assessment of additional workload as a result thereof on the CAT for which the concerned Ministries/Departments have yet to supply some additional information.

Agreement with Bhutan

3488. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a treaty relating to promotion of and fostering the relations of friendship and neighbourliness was signed at Darjeeling on August 8, 1949 by the representatives of Government of India and the then Maharaja of Bhutan;

(b) whether as per that Government of India agreed to make on payment of Rupees five lakhs per annum to Government of Bhutan on the tenth day of every January, if so, on what account; and

(c) whether the said amount of Rupees five lakhs is being paid to Government of Bhutan regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per Article 3 of the Treaty, in place of the compensation granted to the Government of Bhutan under Article 4 of the Treaty of Sinchula and enhanced by the treaty of January 8, 1910 and the temporary subsidy of Rupees one lakh per annum granted in 1942 the Government of India agreed to make an annual payment of Rupees five lakhs to the Government of Bhutan.

(c) Yes, Sir. The payment is being made to the Government of Bhutan regularly.

Infrastructure and Housing Projects

3489. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has earmarked funds for the development of infrastructure and housing projects in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared an action plan to utilise the funds in respect of the core sector and housing projects;

(c) if so, the details of the proposed plan, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which the housing and core sector projects are likely to be completed under this during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The Asian Development Bank has extended a line of credit of US $ 85 million for the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project for development of an integrated urban infrastructure and institutional strengtheing programme to provide and/or upgrade essential urban infrastructure servcies in four selected towns in the Bangalore sub-region, i.e. Mysore, Tumkur, Ramanagaram and Channapatna. The Loan Agreement for this project was signed in May, 1996.

In addition another loan of US $ 20 million has been allocated to Housing Development Finance Corporation for housing projects for the economically weaker section in the State. This loan agreement was signed in December, 1996 and the entire amount of US $ 20 million will be drawn during 1997-98.

The Bank has also included a Housing Finance Facility Project of US $ 250 million, in the pipeline for possible assistance during 1997, which may be increased to US $ 300 million. The borrowers under this project will be National Housing Bank, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) and Housing and Development Finance Corporation (HDFC). The project seeks lending for housing through Community based Finance Institutions (CFIs), Housing Finance Institutions, co-operatives or directly to beneficiaries for slum improvement and low income housing sub-projects and expanding the national housing finance system. The details of the project will be known after negotiations are held and agreements signed with Asian Development Bank.

(d) So far Karnataka Urban infrastructure Project is concerned, it has been planned to be implemented upto June, 2000, followed by one year maintenance period after completion of the projects which will extend through to June, 2001.

Nutrition Programme in Kerala

3490. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reconsidering the move to reduce assistance from World Feod Programme for Supplementary Nutrition Programme to Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) Due to resource crunch with World Food Programme under India Country Programme (ICP) (1997-2000), World Food Programme have proposed to supply reduced food assistance of 70,000 ton per annum worth US $ 27 million against the food requirement worth US $ 60 million per annum for the on-gomg World Food Programme assisted projects in the country. Therefore, the allocation to all the on-going World Food Programe has been reduced accordingly.